"A Retrospect"

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A Retrospect.

Happily for us in the present issue of the "Varsity Magazine Supplement" we are able to take a retrospect of the work done during the war by Canada and the University of Toronto. Four years ago we were facing unprecedented experiences. Those of our generation knew nothing of war. In Canada we had almost come to believe that it had been removed forever from our horizon. It came upon us with terrific suddenness. We had to face it as best we might. We have endured much suffering. We have lost many of our best, but as we look back we may be very thankful for the way in which we have been led during these four years. One fact stands out clearly now that vistory has come to us and that our Canadians overseas have clothed themselves with glory until the very end, that our Canadian troops have been men of high intelligence and character. They submitted well to discipline, and they learned thoroughly the art of war. They were led splendidly by General Currie, his staff and the various commanders, each engagement seeming to be somewhat more glorious than the preceding one - St. Julien, Vimy, Amiens, Arras, Cambrai. It was a fitting close to a victorious career that they should have entered Mons and have won worthily even their final positions. This lesson of discipline learned so quickly must give encouragement to all who are thinking of the future. What we have to learn we will learn. What we have to endure we will endure. What we have to perform for the

safety of our country we will perform. Men will appear when the occasion demands them. General Currie and his associates who have done these wonderful things were not widely known to the people of Canada when the war broke out, but when the occasion called for men Canada could produce the men both to lead and to fight. But the honour is not all to be paid to the combatant corps. They would be the first to admit that their success depended upon the Railway Corps, the Medical Corps, the other army services, and the Forestry Corps hidden away in distant parts of France and England. These forestry men cutting down trees and saving logs in the stillness of French forests often fretted against the order that kept them back from the front , but the work of each contributed to the success of the whole. May we practise alike co-operation in our re-construction period at home. Besides these there were the young Naval Officers from Canada who for four years carried out their unending task in the stormy seas and kept watch for the merchant marine. We must not overlook these merchant marine, not merely the high officers of the great Atlantic liners but the seamen, stewards, stokers of ships both great and small, even the non-descript tramp steamers that carried ammunition at seven knots across the seas tempting hourly on their slow passage the lurking sea reptile.

Not the least spectacular and important of all the episodes were those enacted around the University of Toronto. Here were the first headquarters of the Royal Flying Corps in Canada . In our buildings the Royal Aeronautic School was conducted and thousands of our finest young Canadians were trained for weeks on these grounds making we were told again and again pilots and

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observers second to none in the new branch of military service.

The successive issues of "Varsity" have told of the doings of the University during the earlier years. How the first C.O.T.C. was formed. How we sent away Batteries of Artillery, and formed a permanent depot battery. How we raised, equipped and sent away the No.4 Canadian General Hospital which has been recognised both in Saloniea and in England as being among the very best of the medical units on active service. Later when the call came for the first Tank Battalion one of the Comapnies was quickly recruited by our Overseas Training Company. Along with these larger movements in the war there was a multitude of minor activities well organised and well directed which afforded opportunity to many willing hands and hearts to do their best or to give of their substance for the winning of the war. Altogether a record has been won to stir our hearts to thankfulness, and those of us who remain to greet our returning men when they come back shall always regard it as a privilege of our lives that we have been allowed to take even a small share in contributing to make the victory of our Canadians more complete.